



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Office of School Facilities

Election Advisory Timelines for District Referenda

Updated 9/2/2025

From DOE Receipt of Completed Project Application (120-Days Prior)**	District Review Preliminary Eligible Costs from DOE (30-Days Prior)	Notice County Board of Elections (60-Days Prior)*	Targeted Date of Election*	Election Day of the Week
8/12/2025	12/10/2025	1/9/2026	3/10/2026	Second Tuesday
9/23/2025	1/28/2026	2/27/2026	4/21/2026	Third Tuesday
2/17/2026	6/17/2026	7/17/2026	9/15/2026	Last Tuesday
4/7/2026	8/5/2026	9/4/2026	11/3/2026	First Tuesday*
5/12/2026	9/9/2026	10/9/2026	12/8/2026	Second Tuesday
6/30/2026	10/28/2026	11/27/2026	1/26/2027	Fourth Tuesday
8/11/2026	12/9/2026	1/8/2027	3/9/2027	Second Tuesday
9/22/2026	1/20/2027	2/19/2027	4/20/2027	Third Tuesday
2/16/2027	6/16/2027	7/16/2027	9/14/2027	Last Tuesday
4/6/2027	8/4/2027	9/3/2027	11/2/2027	First Tuesday*
5/18/2027	9/15/2027	10/15/2027	12/14/2027	Second Tuesday

*P.L. 2001, c. 98 **P.L. 2000, c. 72

P.L. 2001, c. 98 took effect on September 28, 2001, and dramatically changed the process for advancing a school facility referendum. This legislation made the following three changes to law governing special school elections in Type II school districts: 1) requires a board of education to give the municipal clerk and the county board of elections no less than 60 days' notice, in writing, of its intention to hold a special election; 2) provides that a special school election may only be held on the fourth Tuesday in January, the second Tuesday in March, the last Tuesday in September (may be adjusted to be more than 45 days from the November election or to avoid the Jewish Holidays) or the second Tuesday in December and; 3) eliminates the provisions of existing law which authorizes legal voters of the district to petition the school board to hold a special election.

NJSA 19:60-2 reads: "The board of elections of a type II district may call a special election of the legal voters of the district on only the fourth Tuesday in January, the second Tuesday in March, the last Tuesday in September, or the second Tuesday in December when in its judgment the interests of the school require such an election. The board of education shall give the municipal clerk or clerks, as the case may be, and the county board of elections no less than 60 days' notice, in writing of its intention to hold a special election."

*N.J.S.A. 18A:24-12 allows for a bond referendum to be put on the ballot at either special school election (January, March, September, or December) or at an annual election (held either in April or November).